

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Clients are prevented from issuing allocation requests to the same items by using a condition depending upon work and a selection key when selecting items to be allocated. By thus selecting allocation subjects so as not to cause competition and thereby reducing exclusive waiting, the efficiency of allocation processing in a large scale workflow system can be raised.

1. A method for allocating a resource to a client, the method comprising:  
2. receiving a request from the client for allocation of the resource;  
3. determining whether the resource is available for allocation to the client;  
4. if the resource is available, allocating the resource to the client;  
5. if the resource is not available, determining whether the client is eligible to receive the resource;  
6. if the client is eligible, allocating the resource to the client;  
7. if the client is not eligible, rejecting the request for allocation of the resource to the client.